

12:35 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
S. Q. NO. 693 RE. BOKARO
STEEL PLANT

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES
AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY):
I beg to make a statement—

MR. SPEAKER : He may lay it on the
Table.

DR. CHANNA REDDY : I beg to lay
on the Table a statement correcting the answer
given on the 15th December, 1967
to a supplementary by Shri S. S. Kothari
on Starred Question No. 693 regarding
construction work of Bokaro Steel Plant.

STATEMENT

SHRI KOTHARI asked the following
question:—

"Will the Minister kindly tell how much
expenditure has so far been incurred on
Bokaro Steel Plant, how much of that has
been spent on township and how many
employees are there now in Bokaro
Steel Plant."

In reply to the above I stated as under:—

"No township work has started in the
Steel Plant. As such no expenditure
has so far been incurred on that. If
township means to erect structures, then
that has not yet started. Work on
levelling has been completed. Total
expenditure so far has been Rs. 30 crores
on that. Orders have been placed."

On looking into the papers I found that
was the previous position and now subse-
quently about Rs. 58.30 crores have been
spent upto the end of October, 1967 on
Bokaro Steel Project. Rs. 6.3 crores is
the expenditure on site levelling and on
township Rs. 6.67 crores has been spent.
1772 permanent houses have been built
in Bokaro City, and 2,520 houses are under
construction. There are about 2000 em-
ployees in Bokaro Steel Project.

MR. SPEAKER : Then there is a state-
ment under Direction 115.

Mr. Madhu Limaye—he is not here.

12:35½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT
COMMITTEE

SHRI KHADILKAR : I beg to move :

"That Chaudhuri Randhir Singh be
appointed to the Joint Committee on the

Bill further to amend the Constitution
of India *vice* Shri K. Hanumanthaiya
resigned."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Chaudhuri Randhir Singh be
appointed to the Joint Committee on the
Bill further to amend the constitution of
India *vice* Shri K. Hanumanthaiya
resigned."

The motion was adopted.

12:36 hrs.

MOTION RE: INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION

MR. SPEAKER : Five hours have been
allotted for this debate. Today we can
continue up to 3.30. May I know when the
Prime Minister would like to reply to the
debate ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER
OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF
PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EX-
TERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA
GANDHI) : My difficulty is, as you know, I
am not in Delhi tomorrow.

SHRI M. R. MASANI (Rajkot) : Let
somebody else reply to the debate. There
is collective responsibility.

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद (बांसगांव) : प्रधान
मन्त्री का इस तरह से यहां न रहना और
निकल जाना उचित न होगा।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) :
यह बहुत सीरियस चीज है। प्रधान मन्त्री
को यहां पर मौजूद रहना चाहिए और इस
का जवाब भी प्रधान मन्त्री को ही देना चाहिए।
अब इतने साल के बाद तो यह फौरन एंफेयर्स
पर डिबेट हाउस में आया है और वह मौके
से भाग जाना चाहती है तो यह ठीक बात नहीं
है। उन को यहां मौजूद रहना चाहिए,
भागना नहीं चाहिए और बहस का जवाब
देना चाहिए।

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is agreed
on that.

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : मैं भागना हरगिज
नहीं चाहती हूं लेकिन लाचारी है जैसा कि
सदन के हर एक सदस्य को मालूम भी होगा

कि शांति निकेतन का यह जो कार्यक्रम है वह हर साल इसी तारीख को होता है।

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : आप कल करतीं, इस डिबेट को पहले लिवा लेतीं लेकिन इस तरह से बीच में चला जाना यह क्या तरीका है ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : यह डिबेट का रखना मेरे हाथ में बिल्कुल नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER : On Saturday we were not expected to sit.

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाय (उज्जैन) : अगर उन के हाथ में नहीं है तो बतला दें कि यह रखना किस के हाथ में है ? सदन मांग करता है कि उन को यहाँ पर रहना चाहिए।

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : स्पीकर साहब के हाथ में है।

SHRI M. R. MASANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think we have any right to demand that a particular Minister must reply to the debate. We would have preferred the Prime Minister to reply. I also would have preferred the Prime Minister to reply to the debate, but I think we have no right to demand that a particular Minister must reply to the debate. There is joint responsibility. Any of her senior colleagues can hold her brief and reply to the debate to-morrow.

MR. SPEAKER : Not only that; we did not expect to sit on Saturday. The position was that we were to disperse today on Friday. We wanted to extend it. There was a proposal in the Business Advisory Committee that the House must sit on Sunday also. Then Shri Madhok said that they were all to go to Calicut and they would not be here on Sunday. In a similar way, some Ministers and others might have fixed up their programme on Saturday because we were supposed to adjourn on Friday. I think let us proceed with this debate now.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-
TIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :
Sir, at 6-30 today the Prime Minister can reply to the debate.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I can give another half-an-hour then and ask the Prime Minister to reply.

SHRI M. R. MASANI : You can postpone the Private Members business by two hours and carry on with this debate.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Let the Prime Minister intervene in the debate.

MR. SPEAKER : She will make a speech. She will reply to the debate before this evening. But she cannot cancel her programme. It will not be right for us to demand that.

SHRI BAKAR ALI MIRZA (Secunderabad) : Sir, Private Members' Business can be taken up to-morrow.

MR. SPEAKER : That cannot be done. Friday is Friday, Friday cannot become Saturday. Let us proceed now.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto be taken into consideration."

Sir, I welcome this debate and I share the concern of the hon. Members that it is to be such a short one. But the world situation is some what like the situation in our own country; it is a blend of both hope and despair. On the one hand there is an urge towards peace and economic progress through inter-national co-operation and, on the other hand, there do exist centres of tension which cause conflicts and divisions within the world community. On the positive side there is an ever increasing awareness of the need for the inter-dependence of nations. Although each country would like to be as self-sufficient and as self-reliant as possible, nevertheless, the world cannot exist without a certain amount of inter-dependence between different countries. One of the factors which causes great concern to India and to all developing countries is the widening gap between the rich and the poor nations. And, in spite of much effort that is being made in many directions we have not been able to solve this problem, and the gap is a growing one. I feel that this is what sows the seeds

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of conflict and is an ever-present feature that disturbs peace.

We greatly welcome the good relationship which we have had with our neighbouring countries, with Burma, with Ceylon and with Nepal. With Burma, as hon. Members know, we have recently concluded a border agreement. With Ceylon, I have already mentioned to the hon. Members on a previous occasion of my own visit there, which was followed by the visit of the Governor-General Ceylon, which gave us opportunities to exchange views. With Nepal also we have had several exchanges. Our Deputy Prime Minister has been to Nepal and, very recently, the King of Nepal passed through Delhi. We were both able to have talks with him and to take up various matters of mutual concern.

We have been trying to maintain good relations and develop our relations with other countries of South East Asia and also with Japan, with Australia and with New Zealand. We have a modest programme of technical assistance and bilateral economic co-operation between India and other developing countries. But the urge of Asia towards economic progress and even co-operation cannot further itself while there is any area of conflict, and that is why from the very beginning it has been our effort to be interested in problems of peace and to try the ways of achieving peaceful settlement wherever there is conflict.

We have been vitally interested in the conflict in Vietnam, for instance, and I should like to repeat our hope that bombing should be stopped there, thus giving an opportunity to open up ways in which the conflict can come to the conference table from the battle field. We are deeply interested in peace in the neighbouring countries and, therefore, we have supported all peace initiatives which have been inspired by the same objective, and specially that made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. U Thant.

We continue to shoulder our responsibility of the chairmanship of the International Control Commission in the hope that this Commission may ultimately provide an instrument for international peace. I am sure the House would wish to join me in paying tribute to the personnel of the International Control Commission and our

Consulate General in Hanoi, who are conducting themselves with calm courage and dignity in very difficult circumstances. I know that the Commission is not able to be very active but, nevertheless, all parties are desirous of its continuance, as I said earlier, in the hope that in the future it could play a more useful role.

I should like also to speak of our relationship with Cambodia and Laos. Both these countries are facing extremely difficult situations and in spite of the pressures and difficulties they are trying to maintain a neutral position, and we do support them in this. Recently, we welcomed the king of Laos and we had the opportunity of reaffirming the similarity of our aspirations and ideals. The other visit we have had was of the Chief Minister of Fiji Mr. Ratu K. K. T. Mara. We have assured him of our interest in cooperation and in the peaceful and harmonious development of Fiji. Then, more recent still, we had the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Shewsagar Ramgoolam. His visit also provided us with an opportunity for renewing our old cultural and traditional ties with the people of Mauritius and of forging new links.

While dwelling on Asia, I should like to mention once again the growing understanding between our country and Australia and New Zealand. We belong to the same geographical region and our interests are interlinked in many ways. We are glad that there has been a realisation of this and we of course have always believed in this,—in Australia and New Zealand also. Today our thoughts go out specially to the people of Australia, for this is the day when they are mourning the tragic loss of their able and distinguished Prime Minister, Sir Harold Holt.

While I am speaking of the Commonwealth, may I here mention our relations with the other countries of the Commonwealth and, in particular, with the United Kingdom? Recently, we had the visit to Delhi of Mr. Prentice, the Minister for Overseas Development and I mentioned to him, as I would like to say here, our appreciation of the terms under which the United Kingdom has given us aid, without interest and with long period of repayment and with extreme flexibility in its utilisation as between project and non-project.

With Canada also we have growing ties. We have been working together for many years in the International Control Commission and on many international problems. We have co-operated and we have tried and are trying to seek peaceful solution of world problems.

Hon. Members are also aware of our efforts in the Security Council to work towards a resolution which could provide the basis for the U N Mediator to restore normality in the West Asian region. We welcome the resolution and we offer our good wishes to the Mediator in the very delicate task which he has undertaken. We believe that normal and stable conditions should be restored in that region, as soon as possible in the interest of the country concerned and, if I may say so, in our own national interest. The territories occupied by force should be vacated and the just rights of the people should be recognised.

We welcome the establishment of the independent Republic of South Yemen, which is another country with which we have had close ties and traditional links. We are glad that at the present moment this relationship has been very greatly strengthened and there is the friendliest of feelings between the people of South Yemen and ourselves.

With the countries of Africa and Latin America also our relations remain friendly. We share the same world-view and the same desire to safeguard our respective sovereignties and to promote international co-operation. By and large, in this area also the trend has been to remain away from ideological, military and political groupings and rivalries so that they could concentrate their attention on more positive and mutually beneficial links.

One cannot look at Africa without also seeing a few black spots which remain there.

SHRI GIRRAJ SARAN SINGH (Mathura): White spots.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Well, white spots which are black spots, if I can put it that way.

We have on many occasions expressed our indignation at the efforts of small minorities to subjugate the vast majority

of inhabitants in disregard to the expressed sentiment of the United Nations and of the world community.

As far as Europe is concerned, we have no bilateral disputes either with western European countries or with countries of eastern Europe. In different ways both these regions have been contributing to our economic progress. We recognise the economic strength and progress which these countries have made in recent years and we welcome this process of closer economic, technological and cultural connections which are now being built up with India.

But we do feel, as I mentioned earlier on, that Europe and specially the more advanced countries of Europe, can do a great deal more to enable us to trade with them which alone can place our economic relations on a secure basis. We are fully aware of their own difficulties—the problems of European security and so on—and we hope that they will be resolved peacefully.

The visit of the German Chancellor has greatly added to the understanding of our respective problems and, I feel, has laid the foundations of closer economic, cultural and scientific collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Our co-operation with the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. continues to develop over a wide field of economic, scientific and cultural activities. We appreciate greatly the friendly assistance which they have both given and the faith they have shown in our own efforts to fulfil our national objectives. The generous food and economic assistance from the U.S.A. is a proof of their understanding and interest in our problems and our objectives. At the same time, the extensive programme of economic co-operation with the U.S.S.R. provides an equal proof of our common interest in safeguarding and promoting international co-operation.

In this picture which is one of harmoniously developing relationship it is unfortunate that I have to mention that the situation still remains unsatisfactory with regard to two of our neighbours. China continues to maintain an attitude of hostility towards us and, as hon. Members know, spares no opportunity to malign us and to carry on anti-Indian propaganda not only against

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the Indian Government but the whole way of our democratic functioning and even our national integrity. But I would like to say that we do not harbour any evil intentions towards the Chinese people and we do hope that a day will come when they will also realise that it is to the interest of all the countries of South East Asia that we should be friends and that each country should be able to devote its strength to solving the very major problems of combating poverty, backwardness and all the attending evils.

With Pakistan we have had and still have the many common bonds of history, tradition and culture and, therefore, it is all the more regrettable that our relationship has followed such an uneven course. We, on our part, would certainly like to see the people of Pakistan prosper and progress and to have friendly neighbourly relations with them because, here again, we believe that friendly relations between India and Pakistan would contribute to the strength of both the nations and would help them both to achieve a better life for their people without our attention being diverted to other purposes. It is for this reason that we welcome the signing of the Tashkent Declaration and even now, in spite of all the obstacles which we face, we continue to do our utmost on our side to see that it is implemented.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA
Unilaterally.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : But the House is well aware how difficult this is. The immediate need, we feel, is to heal the wounds caused by the conflict of 1965 and to normalise our relations. This is what we have been trying to pursue with the Government of Pakistan.

The development of mutually beneficial economic and other relationships should not follow the consideration of more tangled political questions but should precede them and should aim at creating a friendly atmosphere. On our part, I should like to say that we shall not miss any opportunity of having a fruitful dialogue in order that such a feeling of trust and understanding is gradually restored and avenues are opened out for better collaboration on various issues.

We have not lagged behind in our efforts to promote disarmament because, again, for the same reason, we believe that the resources of the world should be turned to, constructive and productive uses. Therefore while we have reservations on partial or discriminatory arrangements for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we share the belief that such an unprecedented reservoir of energy should be used for peaceful and not for destructive purposes.

In this connection, I mention the Second UNCTAD Conference which will be meeting in New Delhi very soon, in early next month. All our Members are already aware of the growing disparity between the developed and the developing nations. While the *per capita* income of the people in the developed countries, in recent years, has been rising, on an average, I am told, by 60 dollars per year, that of the people of the developing countries by only 2 dollars per year. Similarly, the goods manufactured by developed countries are becoming more expensive while the prices of the goods which we manufacture or which come from other developing countries are falling, thereby reducing our purchasing power.

Sometime ago, it was felt that effort should be made to find ways to transfer in an orderly and peaceful manner resources which are essential for rapid economic growth of the developing countries and that is why the Secretary-General of the U.N. had suggested the Development Decade. Unfortunately these efforts have also been in vain and have not succeeded at all. Instead of the gap being bridged, we see that it has been considerably widened.

Now, another effort will be made at the Second UNCTAD Conference to hold this trend and help to enable developing countries to acquire greater resources for their own accelerated economic progress. The developing countries are not asking for aid; they are not asking for charity or for any grant. But they are asking only for the opportunity to trade and to acquire greater possibilities of the transfer of resources from those countries which can afford them and which, in the long run, is to their own interest. It is recognised today, as we recognise in our own internal position, that prosperity cannot belong to only a few. Just as in our country, we see it cannot belong to a

limited number of persons or certain classes, in the same way, in the whole world community also, unless opportunities are shared we cannot have a world peace. Therefore, we must continue with our efforts to enable all the less developed countries to build a better life.

While shaping foreign policy, national interest must, naturally, always be kept in view both from the political point of view and from the economic point of view. At the same time, we must keep our sights on long-term perspective. Conditions, locally or in any given area, may change and sometimes, because of these changes, we may have to take up a new programme. But this should not divert us in any way from our basic values. There will always be ups and downs for any country. In fact, there are ups and downs for all countries, even those which are advanced and which have the possibilities of solving their problems with the resources at their disposal. Even they see ups and downs, even they see that their policies are not always succeeding, are not always bringing the results for which they work and which they hope for. But our aim, while we can make adjustments for any new position that arises, should be not to divert from the basic principles and to do nothing which would bring discredit to the country. We should have faith in ourselves and always so mould our thinking and our actions as to serve the long term interests of the country. It is sometimes when you get diverted by what seems to be in your interest today, that you see that you have moved away from what is really in the long term interest of the country and of the people.

13 hrs..

With these words, I should like to commend this Motion for the consideration of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto be taken into consideration."

A number of amendments are there.

Before we take up further business, I would like to know from the House whether we want to forgo our Lunch and continue this. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : We have only three hours today. Two more hours are there for this. Therefore, we may take another two hours tomorrow.

Now the amendments may be moved.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) : I beg to move :

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House, having considered the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto, desires to invite the attention of the Government of India to the following points in order to make it serve the interests of India more effectively and speedily:—

- (a) need for reappraisal of our relations with Pakistan in the light of Pakistan's avowed intention of intensifying subversive activities in our country through large scale infiltration in Assam and by helping Mizos and Nagas for revolt;
- (b) need to expose the continuous malicious campaign of calumny revealing bitter spirit of hostility mainly based on racial and religious fanaticism by Pakistan against India; and to protect minorities in Pakistan from tortures of Pakistani inhabitants and also to safeguard the properties, assets and interests of Indian citizens in Pakistan;
- (c) need to strengthen our external publicity particularly in regard to India's position as a sovereign power in Jammu and Kashmir and the completeness and irrevocability of its merger with India in view of Pakistan's open declaration that it would use the forum of Security Council to malign India;
- (d) need to take effective steps to take back the Indian cargo seized by Pakistan during aggression of 1965 by declaring that no negotiations could take place with Pakistan when the scars of aggression of 1965 are still there;